

SOCIETY



UPPER: MISS RUTH PARKER.
LOWER: MISS CORA BARRY.

THE WHITE HOUSE musicals add a hopeful line to social calendars. The first, last Tuesday night, was a great success. Like a good many other recently exploded ideas as to White House force, the one intimating that an invitation there had apparently lost the importance of a "command"—the interpretation which generations have given to it—has not a shred of fact to bear it out. Not much has been heard of the necessity of enlarging the White House since the Roosevelt era, when it was put into its present shape, but when the next changes are made, after the world quiets down again, the throngs of the past winter and the inability to ask all that the White House hospitality would have liked to include may be used as a convincing argument for a greater White House.

At any rate, nothing but inability to walk will prevent the envied recipients of Mrs. Wilson's invitations to the musicals to acknowledge them in person. Last Tuesday's gathering was well chosen, a good part being official—the men and women whose names at least are well known over the land as well as here—a little sprinkling of friendly diplomats and a local company, which in the minds of smart residents adds that piquant dash which implies social perfection to any White House assembly.

Moreover, it brought out a few tiaras, necklaces, etc., which have been seen but seldom the past two winters. The niceties of etiquette in wad times, which permit the attendance of diplomats and their wives only at the more intimate occasions at the White House, such as the dinners and musicals, are also relaxed evidently in favor of jeweled accessories to grand toilets for the ladies. These contributed to the brilliancy and gayety of the evening.

The lack of splendors in jewelry at the state reception has been noticeable. It is said by those who attended all four in the last two months. These displays of diamond tiaras and necklaces are viewed with tremendous interest by the thousands who cannot hope to ever own anything like them, and the more they can see of the dazzling stones is the highest point their enjoyment can reach.

The New York women who used to come here in the Roosevelt time, some of whom still own and wear the same gorgeous pieces on parade at home, gave Washingtonians some thrilling moments as they promenaded the corridor and east room. They do not come as frequently now, but one charming woman visitor, Mrs. William Rockwell Clarke, a New York friend of the Attorney General's wife, who, with her husband, was here for several weeks, was wonderfully gowned and bejeweled at one of the receptions. Her dress was a lovely one of silver lace and her diamonds included two strings of solitaires, one reaching to a large corsage ornament set with big stones, and a beautiful comb, the high band of which was also a glittering mass of diamonds.

Mrs. Crozier, wife of Gen. Crozier, whose gowns and jewels are always perfect harmonies, wore at a recent White House reception a pearl dog collar, with diamond clasps and bars, and a long neck chain of diamonds and a spray of five diamond roses in her hair. Her dress was a very rich white satin, brocaded in a large rose pattern.

McCarone comes next as a social chief one being that it has no parallel and its mention opens up a peculiar significance to the multitude of possibilities. For the exact date of midcent is no longer adhered to scrupulously for various reasons, ambitions to get somewhere they are



MRS. ALSTIN SACKETT
Of New London, Conn.



MISS DOROTHY LEETCH

not, at least there have been such, who got the little French word hopelessly entangled with a branch of fancy work—macramé—and were mightily shy therefore to use it over much. Men in plenty have ranked it with such words as "passementerie," and are still free to admit that as far as they are concerned it might trim something quite as nicely.

The social significance of the trimming in late years has been entirely in its application to charity matters. Time was when the gay world did class until after Easter. It usually really gave up its accustomed round of dances, etc., after Lent began, and



MRS. GEORGE SEAY
Of Richmond, Va.

advantage of a fanciful midcent dispensation the worldly minded saw more reason for praise than fault finding. It was not the fashionable habit either in those days to transfer one's pleasure-seeking propensities to palace hotels in southern climes, where every day is a festival and every week boasts a carnival. Imitating the McCarone balls of the older times at foreign capitals, has given society here, especially in its cosmopolitan contingents, many pleasing memories.

The midcent celebrations, however, of late years have been of a more practical character. The important one, for which the date was pre-empted months ago, will be the bag sale on the afternoon and evening of the 29th of this month at Raucher's for the benefit of the Red Cross. Miss Mabel T. Boardman is chairman of the committee having it in charge, the members of which are Mrs. William Crozier, Mrs. F. A. Keep, Mrs. Leiter, Mrs. Robert Patterson, Mrs. Marshall Field, Mrs. E. H. G. Slater and Mrs. Richard Townsend.



MISS KATHERINE BIRNEY

The spring weddings will idealize several dates of this month and plans are formulating for the usual after Easter rush. Miss Dorothy Brooks, at her marriage to Lieut. William Henry Holcombe, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., at St. Thomas' Church, on the afternoon of the 22d, will be attended by a large bridal party. The reception will follow at the Washington Club.

Miss Elizabeth Harding, daughter of Mrs. William P. G. Harding, whose

engagement to Mr. Franklin Henry Ellis was announced recently, has postponed her wedding a year instead of this spring as at first planned, and intends to use that interval in a course of art study in New York.

A Costume Song Recital.

Miss Reeside will give a costume song recital with orchestral accompaniment at the Congressional Club next Friday afternoon.

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